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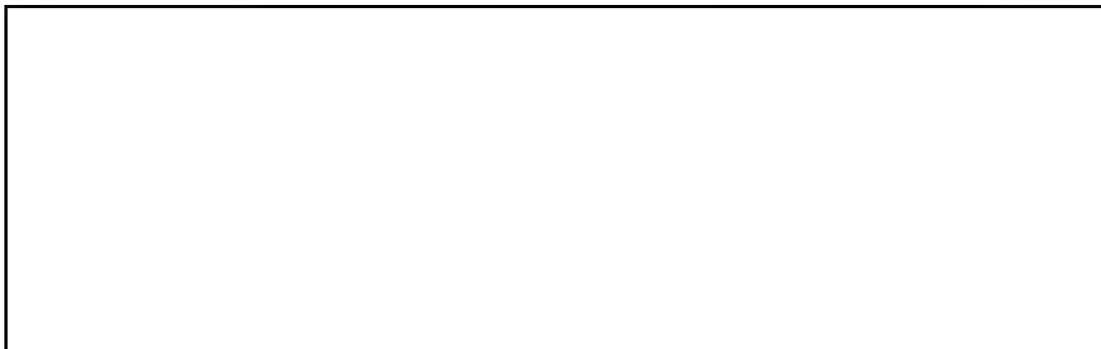
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2. COMMENT ON NENNI'S VISIT TO MOSCOW AND PEIPING

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The current trip of Pietro Nenni, head of the Italian Socialist Party, to Moscow and Peiping appears to have become a source of embarrassment both to the Italian government and to the Italian Communist Party. The trip may enhance Nenni's political position, particularly as a "mediator" in relaxing East-West tensions.

The leftist press in Italy has been playing up the visit as a semi-official exploration of the possible establishment of diplomatic relations with Communist China despite an official foreign ministry denial. Moreover, a high foreign ministry official has expressed fear to an American diplomat that Nenni may make a statement in Peiping proclaiming that China is the "Eldorado" of the modern world and that the Italian government is completely ignoring the possibility of trade relations because it follows the American line.

Nenni's visit is not expected to lead to any great expansion of Italian exports to China, now in the neighborhood of \$5,000,000 annually, but it may have considerable effect on domestic politics. Nenni will probably take advantage of his seeming respectability vis-a-vis the government and his independence from his Communist allies to exploit popular interest in a further relaxation in East-West relations and to renew his pressure for a political "opening to the left."